

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 RSR-01 ADP-00 PM-09 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 TRSE-00

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R 271010 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1269

INFO USEC BRUSSELS 650

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, LE

SUBJECT: ICFTU SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS LEBANON

REF: USEC BRUSSELS 1487

SUMMARY: KIRSTEN VISIT TO LEBANON TO MEDIATE QUESTION OF AFFILIATION TO ICFTU OF LEBANESE FEDERATION OF PETROLEUM WORKERS (REFTEL PARA 5) APPEARS TO HAVE SETTLED LITTLE, BUT SHOULD GIVE KIRSTEN BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF INTERPLAY OF FORCES WITHIN LEBANESE TRADE UNIONS. VISIT ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE JOCKEYING FOR POSITION AMONG TRADE UNION LEADERS HERE, WITH LONG- HAUL ADVANTAGE GOING TO GEORGE SACRE AND HIS PETROLEUM WORKERS. END SUMMARY.

1. OTTO KIRSTEN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF ICFTU, VISITED LEBANON MAR 24 TO 27 TO REFEREE DISPUTE REGARDING AFFILIATION OF LEBANESE PETROLEUM WORKERS UNION TO ICFTU. RESULT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A DRAW, WITH BOTH SIDES CLAIMING DISPUTE SETTLED THEIR FAVOR AND KIRSTEN MORE OR LESS NONCOMMITAL. KIRSTEN TOLD REGIONAL LABATT " ULTIMATE" OUTCOME WILL " PROBABLY" BE AFFILIATION OF PETROLEUM WORKERS TO ICFTU.

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2. SACRE, PRESIDENT OF PETROLEUM WORKERS, SAYS HE TOLD KIRSTEN AFFILIATION IN INTEREST OF ICFTU AS HIS UNION STRONGEST IN LEBANON AND ONLY ONE WITH OUTLOOK AKIN TO INDUSTRIAL UNIONS OF EUROPE. HE SAID KIRSTEN AGREED. GABRIEL KHOURY, HEAD OF CONFEDERATION OF LEBANESE LABOR AND ALED AMIN END SPEECH HE REFUSED DO SO AND LAUNCHED INTO RECITATION RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY CONSTITUTION. POLICE MADE NO FURTHER EFFORT STOP HIM. NO RPT NO VIOLENCE OCCURRED. POLICE WERE AT SITE IN LARGE NUMBERS.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR MARCH 27, PRIMIN SHAFIQ VOICED HIS IRRITATION AT FAILURE PARLIAMENT ACHIEVE QUORUM. PRIMIN STATED THERE WAS REQUISITE NUMBER DEPUTIES PRESENT BUT THEY NOT YET WILLING MEET IN PLENARY SESSION. HE SAID HE AND HIS STAFF STILL AT WORK EDUCATING AND TRYING CONVINCE DEPUTIES REGARDING HELMAND WATERS TREATY. HE SAID HE WAS STILL CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS AND EXPECTED QUORUM COMING WEEKEND. DECON APRIL 1, 1975. NEUMANN

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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